SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

Fixing of Prices of Foodgrains.

Q.—9. Sri M. C. NARASIMHAN (Kolar Gold Fields).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether the Government have issued a press note recently (last week) clarifying that they have not fixed the prices of foodgrains ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that they intend doing so in the near future ;

(*c*) whether they are aware of the steep rise in the prices of food articles ;

(*d*) the extent of such rise ;

(*e*) whether they intend to fix the prices of foodgrains in view of the rising trend ?

A.—Sri K. F. PATIL (Minister for Forest and Transport).—

(*a*) The press note issued on 4th December 1959 was to the effect that the price control notification issued by the Government of India on 4th February 1959 fixing maximum purchase prices for varieties of rice and paddy has been withdrawn by Government of India with effect from 16th November 1959.

(*b*) It is for the Government of India to decide.

(*c*) and (*d*) There has not been any steep rise in recent days.

(*e*) Price control policy is to be determined on an All-India basis and it is for the Government of India to issue statutory price control orders. State Government by itself cannot take any effective action.

Sri M. C. NARASIMHAN.—Is it the view of the Government that prices are not likely to rise and that there has been no price rise during the last several months ?

†Sri K. F. PATIL.—It has been stated that there has been rise, but it has not been a steep rise.

Sri C. K. RAJIAH SETTY.—At what level does the Government consider that it is a steep rise ?

Sri K. F. PATIL.—Abnormal rise beyond the reach of every man.

Sri C. K. RAJIAH SETTY.—According to cost of living index, at what price do you consider it steep ?

Sri K. F. PATIL.—It is a vague question and a vague reply.

Sri M. C. NARASIMHAN.—May I know whether it is the policy of the Government to build up stocks of essential foodgrains in order to see that the prices do not rise ?

Sri K. F. PATIL.—The centre is taking action to build up rice stocks.

Sri G. VENKATAI GOWDA.—May I know whether you have made any representation as to what quantity of rice is required so far as this State is concerned ?

Sri K. F. PATIL.—I do not follow the question.

Sri M. RAMAPPA.—What is the reason for the rise ?

Sri K. F. PATIL.—The prices of commodities are rising and the purchasing capacity of the people is also rising.

Sri G. VENKATAI GOWDA.—Have you made any representation to the Government of India in the matter of holding stock of rice here as to the quantity that is required by the Government of Mysore ?

Sri K. F. PATIL.—A number of times, we have made it known to the Central Government regarding the deficit of this State.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Question time is over.

QUESTION FOR ANSWER ON THE DAY

(but not taken up)

Grant of Land to Harijans for Cultivation of Commercial Crops.

**Q.*—243. Sri H. K. SIDDIAH (Belur).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of darkhast applications received from the Harijans requesting for grant of lands to grow coffee and cardamom in Coorg, Hassan, Chikmagalur, Shimoga and Mangalore districts and other coffee growing areas ;

(*b*) the number of applications received from the Planters who are already having coffee and cardamom plantations ;

(*c*) the number of applications received from landless persons other than Harijans ;

(*d*) out of this, the number of persons and the extent of land granted to them ;

(*e*) the number of applications belonging to the Harijans pending disposal in the taluk office without any action being taken (districtwar, talukwise, and the reasons for the same to be furnished) ?

A.—Sri KADIDAL MANJAPPA (Minister for Revenue).—

(*a*) to (*e*). The collection of the required particulars will involve a lot of time and labour as it is voluminous in nature.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Presentation of 14th Report.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Presentation of the 14th Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

Sri M. C. NARASIMHAN (Kolar Gold Fields).—On a point of order. So far as to-day's business is concerned....

Mr. SPEAKER.—We will come to that. But let the motion on the Report be made.

Sri M. C. NARASIMHAN..—My point of order relates to the Business Advisory Committee Report itself. Please hear me and you will understand whether I should speak before or afterwards. The point is this. The Order Paper of to-day contains reference to Mysore Silkworm Seed (Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 1958. You will kindly remember that the 14th Business Advisory Committee met on the 5th. A definite time order had been fixed so far as the Bills were concerned and according to that, if I remember aright, the Mysore Silkworm Seed (Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 1958 had not been included in the agenda for today. It was only the Robertsonpet Municipality (Formation and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 1959 that had been included. I would invite your attention to Rule 231 which says as follows :—

> " No variation in the Allocation of Time Order shall be made except on a motion made with the consent of the Speaker and accepted by the Assembly :
>
> Provided that the Speaker may after taking the sense of the Assembly increase the time, not exceeding one hour, without any motion being moved."

Sir, the position is this. The amendment to the Allocation order has been made even without consulting the Assembly. Rule 231 is very clear that it should not be made without the leave of the House. I would like to know how this allocation of time order was made even without reference to the Assembly. The last Business Advisory Report was adopted unanimously. There is no valid reason why a change has been introduced. Simply because one Minister wants that a particular department's Bills should be introduced, suddenly changes should not be made. Further I invite your attention to another rule which speaks of priority of Bills. In respect of priority of Bills, one principle has been enunciated and that is this : A Bill which has advanced fairly should be taken up first. So far as the Mysore Silkworm Seed (Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 1958 is concerned, it has not advanced further than the Robertsonpet Municipality (Formation and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 1959. So many Bills are passed in the Council, but still they do not see the light of the day. If this principle of taking only such of those Bills as have advanced to a certain stage is given a go-bye, I do not know what rule we will be following. Sir, I object to the Presentation of even the Business Advisory Committee Report in view of Rule 231.